

“locking” characteristics for use during the expansion process, has a means for allowing the heated container to be more easily removed from the microwave oven, and/or which minimizes venting to, in turn, optimize pop volume of to-be-cooked popcorn. However, while specific embodiments of the invention have been described in detail, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and not limiting as to the scope of the invention which is to be given the full breadth of the appended claims and any equivalents thereof.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible microwave cooking container, comprising:

a generally, rectangularly shaped paperboard blank folded along crease lines to form a bottom portion, a first side portion, a top portion, and a second side portion

wherein said top portion and said first side portion are adapted to be attached so as to form a cube having opposed, open sides; and

a first collapsible side and a second collapsible side each adapted to substantially cover one of said opposed, open sides of said cube when said collapsible microwave cooking container is in an expanded configuration;

wherein each of said first collapsible side and said second collapsible side comprise a first generally rectangularly shaped segment laterally extending from said bottom portion and having a first locking tab and a second generally rectangularly shaped segment laterally extending from said top portion and having a second locking

tab such that, when said collapsible microwave cooking container is in said expanded configuration, said collapsible microwave container is generally maintained in said expanded configuration as an exterior surface of said first locking tab engages an interior surface of said second generally rectangularly shaped segment and an exterior surface of said second locking tab engages an interior surface of said first generally rectangularly shaped segment and said top portion and one of said first and second generally rectangularly shaped segments is disposed within a slot formed in the other of said first and second generally rectangularly shaped segments.

2. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 1, wherein said second generally rectangularly shaped segment has said slot.

3. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 2, wherein said slot is positioned adjacent said second locking tab.

4. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 3, wherein said second locking tab has an arcuate end portion and said arcuate end portion forms an acute angle between said second locking tab and said second generally rectangularly shaped segment.

5. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 3, wherein said first and second locking tabs of said first and second generally rectangularly shaped segments extend to a height that is at least sixty-seven percent of a height provided to

the first and second side portions.

6. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 1, wherein a charge pouch is attached to the bottom portion.

5

7. The collapsible microwave cooking container as recited in claim 6, wherein the charge pouch includes un-popped popcorn.

8. A collapsible microwave cooking container,

10 a generally, rectangularly shaped paperboard blank folded along crease lines to form a bottom portion, a first side portion, a top portion, and a second side portion wherein said top portion and said first side portion are adapted to be attached so as to form a cube having opposed, open sides; and

a first collapsible side and a second collapsible side each adapted to substantially
15 cover one of said opposed, open sides of said cube when said collapsible microwave cooking container is in an expanded condition;

wherein each of said first collapsible side and said second collapsible side comprise an outwardly extendable tab for use in removing said collapsible microwave cooking container from a microwave oven after heating.

20

9. The collapsible cooking container as recited in claim 8, wherein said first and second collapsible sides are formed by cooperating, bendable segments provided to opposed sides of each of said top portion, bottom portion, and first and second side portions and

wherein said segments provided to the top portion comprise said outwardly extendable tab.

10. A collapsible cooking container, comprising:

5 a generally, rectangularly shaped paperboard blank folded along crease lines to form a bottom portion, a first side portion, a top portion, and a second side portion wherein said top portion and said first side portion are adapted to be attached so as to form a cube having opposed, open sides; and

a first collapsible side and a second collapsible side each adapted to substantially
10 cover one of said opposed, open sides of said cube when said collapsible microwave cooking container is in an expanded condition;

wherein said first and second collapsible sides are formed by cooperating, bendable segments provided to opposed sides of each of said top portion, bottom portion, and first and second side portions and wherein said bendable segments
15 provided to said first and second side portions cooperate with said bendable segments provided to said bottom portion to contiguously integrate upwardly extending sections of said first and second side portions and said collapsible sides about a perimeter of said bottom portion for reducing leakage from said collapsible cooking container when said collapsible cooking container is in said expanded condition.

20

11. The collapsible cooking container as recited in claim 10, wherein a length of each of said segments provided to said first side portion are adjoined to a length of a corresponding one of said segments provided to said bottom portion.

12. The collapsible cooking container as recited in claim 11, wherein a length of each of said segments provided to said second side portion is adjoined to a length of a corresponding one of said segments provided to said bottom portion.

5

13. The collapsible cooking container as recited in claim 12, wherein each of said segments provided to said second first portion and said corresponding one of said segments provided to said bottom portion are arranged to form an arcuate corner.

10 14. The collapsible cooking container as recited in claim 13, wherein each of said segments provided to said second side portion and said corresponding one of said segments provided to said bottom portion are arranged to form an arcuate corner.